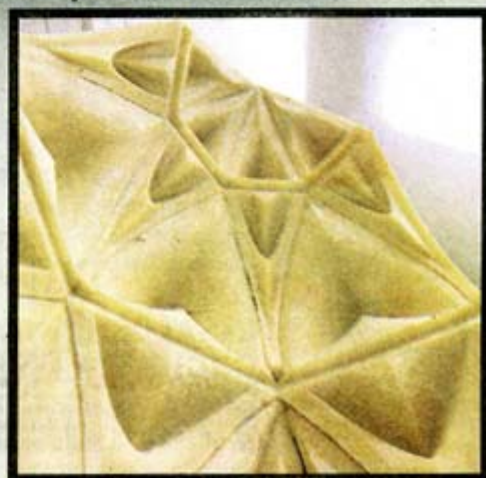


# 15 best bets for an artful weekend

**T**his weekend marks the opening of the fall art season in Chicago. Galleries in River North, the West Loop, Wicker Park and elsewhere are unveiling new work, and roomfuls of sumptuous, striking, sexy art await your curious eyes. About 70 galleries around town are having shows, so if you want to take part, it helps to have a plan. Tribune art critic **ALAN ARTNER** offers his picks for what to see. We skip the merely fashionable in favor of the truly interesting, and group them by neighborhood with your feet in mind. **PAGE 22**



**IDA APPLEBROOG**  
ROWLANDCONTEMPORARY



**HASEEB AHMED**  
AROUND THE COYOTE GALLERY

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**ART: FALL ART REVIEW**

## Open season

**Shows boast rich variety of new work -- and now is your chance to see it**

By Alan G. Artner

Tribune art critic

September 7, 2007



The first day of autumn is more than two weeks away, but the fall season in art galleries begins this weekend with about 70 openings. Most of the shows are devoted to contemporary art, and those for young and emerging artists are usually the only ones considered when tastemakers talk about the "scene" in Chicago.

But on the first weekend of each September, all kinds of exhibitions open, so I've recommended a number that attempts to give some idea of the range and quality of what's available. Range was easy, as my review columns are assembled weekly by taking into account media, age and locale of the artists as well as time periods. Exposure solely to contemporary art is not enough to make a cultured viewer. You need to know something about where art has been, and any scene worth being a part of treats more than just the epoch in which we live.

The issue of quality was harder. Where there now are six times the number of galleries in Chicago than when I began writing in 1973, excellence has not increased accordingly. In fact, several galleries recognized beyond the city are better known for attitude and hipness quotient than actual exhibition programs. Potential visitors less concerned with art than an evening's DJ can find such like-minded galleries on their own.

As with Chicago's art museums, many of the more interesting exhibitions come later in the season, but our purpose today is to draw attention to the start of everything, so here (according to gallery district) is a preliminary flourish:

### River North

Gary Justis, "Plush": One of the finer Midwestern sculptors of the 1980s returns with upholstered works inspired by childhood memories and cartoon imagery; Alfadena Gallery, 434 W. Ontario St., through Oct. 6. 312-944-4340.

Jungjin Lee, "Wind": Large-format photographic prints on handmade rice paper producing objects of great tactility that

might be mistaken for charcoal drawings; Andrew Bae, 300 W. Superior St., through Oct. 6. 312-335-8601.

Jackie Tileston, "Adventure of the Semionauts": Paintings that reflect the artist's multicultural upbringing through the combination of a number of Western and Eastern styles; Zg, 300 W. Superior St., through Oct. 13. 312-654-9900.

Gordon Powell, "Constructions": Wood sculptures from an artist who long has upheld the "other," less well-recognized tradition of abstract art in Chicago; Perimeter, 210 W. Superior St., through Oct. 15. 312-266-9473.

Zana Briski, "Brothel": The Academy-Award winning filmmaker presents a selection of photographs from years of work in Calcutta's red-light district; Daiter Contemporary, 311 W. Superior St., through Oct. 27. 312-787-3350.

Nicholas Sistler, "Circumstantial Evidence": Paintings, brilliant in color and small in compass, of room interiors with elements derived from film noir; Printworks, 311 W. Superior St., through Oct. 27. 312-664-9407.

#### West Loop

"Lithic Obsessions: Ancient Stone": About 75 examples of Asian, African and American artifacts (tools to fetish objects) from 300,000 B.C. to the 19th Century; Douglas Dawson, 400 N. Morgan St., through Sept. 29. 312-226-7975.

Jacob Hashimoto, "Plumes and the Landscape Omnibus": Cascades of colored paper, bamboo and string that draw on the handmade tradition of kite making; Rhona Hoffman, 118 N. Peoria St., through Oct. 13. 312-455-1990.

Heather Marshall, "Olio Tableaux": The Chicago artist's first solo exhibition, of generally small, representational panel paintings occasionally filled with minute detail; Linda Warren, 1052 W. Fulton Market, through Oct. 13. 312-432-9500.

Caleb Weintraub, "We Must Go and Tell the King": Outrageous figurative canvases by a New Jersey native who is concerned with overstimulation and desensitization; Peter Miller, 118 N. Peoria St., through Oct. 13. 312-951-1700.

Ida Applebroog, "Photogenics": Recent digital prints and mixed-media by a New York artist who has not shown her idiosyncratic figuration here in decades; rowlandcontemporary, 1118 W. Fulton Market, through Oct. 27. 312-421-6275.

Howardena Pindell, "In My Lifetime": Work on social issues from more than 30 years includes paintings, prints and drawings, sometimes incorporating photographs; G.R.N'Namdi, 110 N. Peoria St., through Nov. 3. 312-563-9240.

#### Elsewhere

"Haseeb Ahmed: The Common Sense": The Ohio native converts the gallery into a mosque, with a lecture and prayers Fridays at 1:30 p.m.; Around the Coyote, 1935 1/2 W. North Ave., Saturday through Sept. 29. 773-342-6777.

Zoe Crosher, "LA-LIKE": The first solo exhibition in Chicago for a Los Angeles photographer who strives to capture singular qualities of West Coast light; 65GRAND, 1378 W. Grand Ave., through Oct. 6. 312-719-4325.

Paul Kelpé Paintings and Works on Paper, 1925-1935: Recently discovered pieces by one of the key figures of Constructivist abstraction in America. Valerie Carberry, 875 N. Michigan Ave, Ste. 2510, Saturday through Oct. 27. 312-397-9990.

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aartner@tribune.com

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